

SENATE BILL 1715

By Herron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 7; Title 10 and Title 65, relative to broadband
deployment across the state of Tennessee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 7, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

4-3-734.

(a) The department shall establish a program designed to provide access to
computer technology and the internet to Tennesseans living throughout the state. The
program shall be known as ConnectTN and shall be based around a statewide
broadband expansion. The department is authorized to enter into agreements with not
for profit organizations in order to implement the program under this section.

(b) The program shall seek to:

- (1) Have full broadband deployment throughout the state by the end of
2010;
- (2) Significantly improve the use of computers and the internet by all
Tennesseans,
- (3) Provide meaningful online presence for all Tennessee communities
that improves citizen services and promotes economic development
through e-government, virtual education, and online healthcare or
telemedicine; and
- (4) Develop eCommunity Leadership Teams in every county that
assemble local community leaders to develop and implement technology
growth strategies that bring together governments, businesses, schools

and educational institutions, agriculture, libraries and community-based organizations.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.